

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NEW YORK ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY

MEETING OF MAY 6, 1924

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held at 8 P. M. on May 6, 1924, in the American Museum of Natural History, President Harry B. Weiss in the chair, with 18 members and eight visitors present.

Mr. R. J. Hunter, present as a guest, offered the use of his telescope facilities in watching the Transit of Mercury on May 7.

Mr. Mutchler spoke on "Beetles of the Galapagos Islands," and exhibited the specimens taken on the expedition in which Mr. Beebe and Dr. Wheeler had taken part. He described the islands in the Pacific Ocean, about 500 miles west of Ecuador, and practically on the Equator, as something like a dump of cinders and poor in beetle life. The species found appeared to have been introduced on floating timber, by winds or by human agency. Collections have been made by Darwin in the "Beagle," by the "Eugenia" in 1852, the "Petrel" in 1875 and the "Albatross" in 1890, previous to the recent expedition. The beetles found have been studied by Waterhouse, Boheman, C. O. Waterhouse and Linell, and the number has grown from 29 found by Darwin to 73 now known.

Mr. J. C. Bridwell read a paper, "Notes on Habits of Chrysomelidæ with a Consideration of Adaptions to Climate," in which details of the life history of *Microrhopala vittata*, *Calligrapha similis* and *elegans*, *Plagioder a versicolor*, *Trirhabda canadensis* and *tomentosa* were given to show that in each case only two to four months were passed in active feeding and growth, the remainder being passed in a dormant state, either as egg, pupa or hibernating adult. The active period occurs during tropical or subtropical heat, for even far north the brief summer is hot. On the other hand, *Spermophagus robinae* and *Bruchus mimus* feed continuously in the warmer regions and conditions under which they occur. The conclusion was that their habits were greatly influenced by climate.

Dr. Lutz said an interesting and thus far unknown feature of the problem was why some species passed the winter as adults and others in different stages.

Dr. Hussey recalled an experience in Minnesota in which *Corixa* frozen in solid ice eight inches thick was killed, but a different species, jammed in numbers in air pockets in the ice, survived.

Mr. William T. Davis reported seeing two Monarch butterflies at Tottenville, Staten Island, May 5, 1924. One, a female, was flying on Ward's Point close to the ground and against a strong westerly wind. She examined all of the recently sprouted plants on the sandy soil, probably searching for

a milkweed. When she came to the end of the vegetation and near the end of the Point, she flew to a height of about 200 feet, reversed the direction of her flight and sailed with the wind in the direction of Long Island. Her progress was rapid, and with a favorable wind it can be easily understood how these butterflies can reach this vicinity from the south in a few days. Today, May 6, a Monarch butterfly was seen at St. George, flying northward, about 20 feet above the tops of the trees. The earliest record for the Monarch butterfly in Staten Island is April 25, 1917; the first week in May being about the usual time of appearance.

After deciding to begin the next and last meeting for the season at six o'clock, with coffee and eatables under the charge of Dr. Lutz, Mr. Angell and Mr. Davis, the Society adjourned.

MEETING OF MAY 20, 1924

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held at 8 P. M. on May 20, 1924, in the American Museum of Natural History, President Harry B. Weiss in the chair, with 16 members and three visitors present.

Dr. Lutz spoke of the supper which preceded the meeting prepared by the joint efforts of Messrs. Mutchler, Wunder, Davis and Mrs. Timonier, to whom especially the floral decorations, rescued from the Horticultural Exhibit, were due. A vote of thanks was given to them.

Mr. Angell exhibited *Cicindela modesta*, taken at Oradell, N. J., May 18.

Mr. Sherman read a paper on "Entomological and other Bibliographies," praising highly the work done by Mabel Colcord and giving a complete resumé of the subject.

Messrs. Mutchler, Lutz and Bridwell joined in the subsequent discussion.

Mr. Barber read a paper on "Hemiptera of Galapagos Islands," reviewing the results of the Beagle, Eugenia, Challenger, Albatross and Stanford expeditions before describing his own work on the collections made by Beebe's expedition which added 10 to the 22 species previously known, including eight new species. Of special interest were three species of *Halobates* or treaders of the sea which feed on floating dead animal matter.

His remarks were discussed by Messrs. Davis, Mutchler and Bridwell, the latter stating that *Halobates* was occasionally driven on shore at Honolulu.

Mr. Weiss spoke of his visit to Seaside Park on May 7 and the 29 species he had found there on *Hudsonia* and Sand Plum.

Mr. Davis also spoke of beach collecting at Sandy Hook.

MEETING OF OCTOBER 7, 1924

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held at 8 P. M. on October 7, 1924, in the American Museum of Natural History, President Harry B. Weiss in the chair, with 21 members and three visitors present.

Mr. Mutchler proposed for active membership Mr. Guido Maydell, American Museum of Natural History.

Mr. Leng announced the death on August 7 of Mr. Gustav Beyer. On his motion a committee to draft appropriate resolutions was ordered.

The president announced the subject for the evening "Notes on Summer Experience in Collecting Insects" and called on each member in turn.

Mr. Mutchler spoke of his experiences in going out with Boy Scouts and finding *Cincindela 6-guttata* under bark. He also spoke of his trip to River-ton, N. J., to study the Japanese beetle and exhibited eight bottles containing about a pint, all obtained in about an hour.

Mr. Burns, who had accompanied him, spoke of the devastation of the peach orchards, with photographs showing the beetles thickly clustered on the peaches which were devoured until bare pits remained. Samples of these clinging to the branches were also shown. Mr. Burns showed in addition specimens of *antiopa* caterpillars prepared by a new process preserving color and hairs.

Mr. Hall said he had a successful trip to Wyoming where he had collected many butterflies at and above the tree line. These will be shown at a future meeting.

Mr. Olsen had visited the Bahamas, finding insects scarce amid the scrubby growth on its limestone rock. A large number of micro-lepidoptera were collected at night.

Dr. Lutz exhibited the larviform female of *Phengodes*, wingless and in life provided with series of luminous spots. He gave some details of its effect on photographic plates and spoke also of his experiments in taking motion pictures of insects. Later he spoke of the recurrence of Rocky Mountain migratory locust and Dr. Ball's opinion that it is a winged form of *atlantis*, produced in seasons of drought.

Mr. Woodruff described his method of collecting *Elaphrus* by tramping hard in soft mud on the cattail overgrown bank of a brook. He spoke also of finding *Deronectes depressus* in Connecticut, some in a cold pool shaded by hemlocks, others in a stream meandering slowly through meadows. He had been successful in studying the nymph of *Gomphus adspersus* and at Karner, near Albany, N. Y., had found a new Membracid first noticed in the State Museum Collection. During the summer he had, with pleasure, made the acquaintance of Mr. K. T. Chamberlain, of Cornwall Bridge, Conn., whose ability he praised.

Mr. Davis had spent two weeks in Virginia; the results will be covered later. He exhibited *Melanoplus differentialis*; his remarks thereon will be printed in Short Notes; also *Ceuthophilus gracilipes*, a cave cricket found at Fort Wadsworth, Staten Island, by Lloyd Egbert on September 24, an addition to the list of Staten Island Orthoptera, bringing the total to 101 species. Four pink katydids found this season on Staten Island by various young people were shown and discussed. In butterflies he remarked that the Monarch had not been as plentiful as usual, while the Thistle butterfly, *Vanessa*

cardui, had been relatively abundant; the first was seen on April 5. The death of the *Cychnus viduus* found November 29, 1923, occurred on June 28, 1924. It was fed on molasses during its seven months captivity.

Mr. Sherman had spent his summer in the White Mountains and in visits with Henshaw, Johnson and Banks in Boston; Crampton and Alexander in Amherst; and Parshley in Northampton, where the library excited his admiration. Beetles were scarce in his experience and Mr. Dodge told him the summit of Monroe was now better for collecting than Mt. Washington.

Dr. and Mrs. Hussey had been in Michigan. Mrs. Hussey in pursuit of her studies in Embryology rejoiced in having found the first *Lethocerus americanus* since 1916. She told also of a basket of woven fabric from Africa apparently infested by beetles.

Mr. Shoemaker described visits to the Water Gap and to Washington, the latter with Nicolay and Quirsfeld having been modified by the freshet in the Potomac; however, a dozen or more *Cychnus* and 54 Pselaphids (sifted in three hours) were part of the catch.

Mr. Watson commented on the abundance of *cardui* which began to appear early in April. His opinion was that the abundance was due to migration.

Mr. Bell took the same view of their abundance being due to migration.

Mr. Dow, in attendance after six years absence in California, gave a general account of his natural history observations. He spoke of the scarcity in his observation of *Cicindela* and *Cicada* and told amusing incidents of Road Runner birds, gopher snakes and rattlesnakes.

Mr. Davis said the *Cicada* Mr. Dow had sent him was *Cacama crepitans*.

Mr. Farrelly exhibited pictures of Tampico and Port Arthur and described the jungle behind the oil tanks in which he had collected.

Mr. Levine had circumnavigated the globe but had been unfortunate in meeting the dry season in Java and the South Sea Islands. He had numerous illustrations which, with some of the insects captured, may be shown at a later meeting.

Mr. Schwarz spoke of *Xylocarpa virginica* in building nests in a wooden building.

Mr. Nicolay spoke especially of a visit with Messrs. Quirsfeld and Mason to Skyland, Virginia, and Stonyland Mountain, where five species of Cychnini were found and two interesting weevils. One of these, *Lepidophorus setiger*, was found in abundance in deep layers of leaves. At the summit of the mountain *Centrodera picta* was common on oaks. Mr. Nicolay told also of Mr. Dyar's unusual form of relaxation by constructing tunnels in his garden.

Mr. Leng showed the work of J. L. Padilla in the "California Illustrated Review" in photographing Lepidoptera in conjunction with food plant.

Mr. Weiss said he had visited Seaside Park every week and would later exhibit the insects found there with a discussion of their environment.

MEETING OF OCTOBER 21, 1924

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held at 8 P. M. in the American Museum of Natural History, President Harry B. Weiss in the chair, with 14 members and 26 visitors present.

Mr. Guido Maydell, American Museum of Natural History, was elected a member of the Society.

Mr. Herbert Eberle, 1592 East 12th Street, Brooklyn, was proposed for active membership by Mr. Mutchler.

Mr. Leng exhibited *Supplementa Entomologica* No. 10, containing Preliminary Checklist of "common names" used in applied entomology.

Dr. Lutz read a paper on Insect Sounds which was followed with close attention and discussed by several members and visitors. The paper will be printed in full.

In the course of the discussion Mr. Davis, being asked to speak, stated that in his long study of Orthoptera in the field, his opinion that their song was a sexual attraction was strongly confirmed by repeated observations.

Mr. Engelhardt, also from field study, believed that, at least in part, their song was an expression of the pure joy of living.

Dr. Lutz having taken the chair, it was voted to omit the Election Day meeting.

Mr. Eberle exhibited a specimen of the Japanese beetle *Popillia japonica* which he had found in the fall of 1923 on Long Island, about two miles north of Coney Island.